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The Parliamentary Development Project II (PDPII) conducted a training on “Analytical Methods and Strategic Planning of Law Making Activities” in Simeiz (Autonomous Republic of Crimea) on May 24-27, 2009.

35 participants representing Secretariats of the Verkhovna Rada, Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers, Secretariat of the President of Ukraine, Secretariats of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Supreme Court, etc. were introduced to the institutionalist theory and problem-solving methodology as a guide to legislative policy development and drafting during the three-day training on Analytical Methods and Strategic Planning of Law Making Activity.

PDPII first introduced this methodology in a training program in Mukachevo in November to an interbranch group and brought in trainers from the US-based International Consortium on Law and Development (ICLAD).

The Problem Solving Method provides an approach to policy analysis through a critical assessment of the problem and possible solutions. This method was developed by a Drs. Robert and Ann Seidman, Professors of Law and Economics at Boston University influenced by their work in Ghana while on a Fulbright program. Their observation was that too much law was being written as documentation based on post-colonial inheritance rather than as efforts to solve real social problems.

In Mukachevo and Simeiz through a combination of mini-lectures, presentations on the experience of application of method, and group discussions participants gained an understanding of the institutionalist theory and legislative problem-solving approach; assessed the probable effectiveness of a legislative proposal; understood the importance of drafting research reports aimed at transforming repetitive patterns of problematic behaviors; identified legislative provisions that address the root causes, rather than the superficial manifestations, of social problems; discussed how the choice of implementing agency effects implementation; and developed strategies for ensuring that a selected implementing agency can and will perform its legal mandate.

PDP- has looked for opportunities to work with interbranch working groups on real policies and draft laws in order to work on adaptation of the method in the Ukrainian context.

The training in Simeiz focused on using the methodology to solve specific issues in laws that are in force or in draft.

The training participants had an opportunity to implement this knowledge in five working groups:

1. on Domestic Violence/Gender Violence;
2. Environmental Expertise/Law on Waste
3. Concept of Lobbying/Law on Citizen Influence on the Lawmaking Process
4. Electoral Code
5. Administrative Procedural Code

After a very general application of the methodology the participants learned that it is much easier to solve a problem the more you narrow the focus. So the second day, the groups worked on applying the methodology to a very narrow focus of their general policy problems to see if they could solve





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the problem through law or whether there were other issues. PDP staff and consultants facilitated working groups.

Among the most significant outcomes of the training mentioned by the participants were the possibility to meet and establish communication and experience exchange with representatives of other branches of power and improving information coordination between different branches of power in the future; familiarization with the institutionalist theory and problems solving methodology, which they plan to share with their colleagues.

Among the remarks at the close of the three-day meeting in Simiez:

“Experience, obtained in the process of application of [this method] will help to more systematically analyze not only bills but also different problems and different facets of a problem. --
-- The exchange of experience and information among participants was extraordinarily interesting --
- Interactive discussions and joint work in groups to determine options for legislative problems with the representatives of different public authorities will greatly benefit my professional activity.”

